

A full and certain Relation

concerning the Horrid

PLOT

Of the

PAPISTS.

AND

The Barbarous and Bloody Murder of
Sr. EDMUND BURT GOMFRET, one of
His Majesties Justices of the Peace.

Who was found on the 17th. of *October* last
most inhumanly Murdered in a field about
three miles from *London*.

With an Exact Account in what man-
ner he was found, and what wounds he had
on his Body.

Together with the most noble manner of
his being Buried, and the Text of the Ser-
mon there Preached before many Thousands of per-
sons of Quality that attended the Corps in
Honour to his memory.

London, Printed for *Lawrence White* in *Whitecross*
Street, 1678. With Allowance.

A full and certain Relation

concerning the Horrid

PLOT

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

MAY 28, 1913

SUBSCRIPTION FOR

ENGLISH HISTORY

Office

PAPERS

AND

The Barbarous and Bloody Murder of
J. EDWARD WERT GODFREY, one of
His Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

Who was found on the 17th of October last
most inhumanly Murdered in a field about
three miles from London

VVith an Exact Account in what man-
ner he was found, and what wounds he had
on his body.

Together with the most noble manner of
his being Buried, and the Text of the ser-
mons preached before many Thousands of per-
sons of Quality that attended the Corps in
Honour to his memory.

London, Printed for E. Smith, at the signe of the
Gun, 1678. Wm. A. Howance.



**A true Narrative concerning
the Plott of the Papists, and
the Murther and Burial of Sir
EDMUND BURT GODFREY, &c.**

Great is the malice of wicked men, and their Cruelty not to be exprest; the best of Kings have had Plotts and Conspiracies against them; and the most innocent men have been barbarously murdered. The day before *Michaelmas* day last, there was some Discovery made of a most horrid Plott, laid by Jesuits and Papists, against the Life of our Sovereign Lord the King (whom may the Arm of Almighty God Protect and preserve, and gloath all His Enemies with Shame and Confusion) as also that they had Conspir'd to Overthrow the Protestant Religion; alter the Government, &c. Upon which some persons were taken and sent to *Newgate*, and severall other Discoveries have since been made, and persons Imprisoned but of particulars we have no Commission, tis our hope and good mens Prayers

that the villain may be wisely discovered, and
 justly corrected and deservedly punished.
 And so I shall proceed to give you an account of
 the Murder of Sir Edmund Bay Godfrey, who may
 be called the best Martyr in this Cause, For this
 worthy Gentleman being one of His Majesties
 Iustices of the Peace, was concerned in taking the
 Preliminarys upon the first Discovery of this Trea-
 sonable design and (as became him) was very dili-
 gent therein, whereby his verily believ'd some Pa-
 pists conceived him to be a publick enemy, and occa-
 sion'd his lamentable Murder, for going forth on
 Saturday the 12th. of October, from his House in
 Greens Lane near Charing Cross, he neither came
 home to Dinner, nor returned as night, which much
 amazed his servants, but from that time till the
 Thursday following, no certain tydings could be
 heard of him, although all earnest and diligent
 Inquiries and Searches were made for him; but
 on Thursday the 17th. of October his body was found
 in a field out of any Road or Path, near a place cal-
 led Primrose Hill, about three miles from London.
 The manner how he came to be found, is Related
 thus, Two persons going to an Alehouse, called the
 white horse, two or three fields off, on some occa-
 sion, to go the nearest way cross over this field, and
 near the Hedge, saw as they thought, a Sword and
 Belt, and a stick and a pair of Gloves, but suppo-
 sing them to belong to some person that was gone
 into the ditch to ease himself, did not meddle with
 them, but sold the man of the Alehouse of it, who

as they return'd, would go with them to see the thing, because (as he said) there had been several Soldiers out that way of late a Hedge-Hog-Hunting, and possibly some of them might have carelessly left them behind them; coming to the place, they found a Belt and Scabbard, but without a sword, and the Gloves and Stick lying as aforesaid, and one of them going to take them up, perceived something like a man in the Ditch, and going nearer, a body lying on its belly in the ditch with a sword run clear through him and remaining therein, Hereupon they immediately called an Officer, who with several Neighbours came to the place, the sword was run in just under the left pap, and stuck forth at the right side of his back, about seven or eight inches. The Officer knowing it to be the body of *Sir Edmund Bury Godfrey*, and having removed it out of the ditch, found in his Pockets seven Guinies, four broad pieces, and two small pieces of Gold, four pound and half a crown in Silver, and three Gold Rings about him, tis believ'd the villains had a design to murder his Reputation as well as his person, and left him in this manner with his money, to make it be thought that he Murdered himself: But tis well known he was a more judicious and christian person, and had a plentiful Estate, and no colour for such a scandal, and that which makes it plain to be an inhumane Murder in them, are these circumstances.

First, there was nothing missing about him but his band, and his Pocket-Book wherein he used to carry

(6)

carry the Examinations of such as came before him, which probably these Murderers had occasion for, that it might be concealed.

Secondly, there was no sign of blood in the ditch, nor thereabouts to be seen.

Thirdly, There was a Seam or Circle about his Neck, and the blood settled in the upper part, whereby it appears that he was first strangled before he was run through, and as for his large lac'd band, which he went from Home with, on, and now was missing, tis like being a long neckt man and using to wear a high Collar, when they came to strangle him, he might struggle, and they could not do it without tearing it to pieces, and so durst not bring any of it with the body, least it should discover the violence they had used to him.

And lastly, the soles of his shoes were as clean as if he had been but just then brought off a bed or out of a Chamber, and that he was killd elsewhere and brought thither a little before he was found is evident, because on the *Tuesday* before, which was four days after he was first missing, the owner of this field having lost a Calf, searching diligently along this ditch and two other men with him, and then there was neither body in the ditch, nor Belt Gloves or Stick on the back, upon all these circumstances, and many others, the Coroners Jury gave in their Verdict, *That he was wilfully Murdered.*

In pursuance of which the King's Majesty out of his zeal to Justice, and detestation of such horrid villa-

Billory, was pleased so far forth first a Proclamation, and then a Declaration, whereby he graciously promises on his Royal Word, that whosoever will discover the Murderers shall have five hundred pounds, and if any of them will discover the self, he shall be sure of pardon, and the Five Hundred pound too; there are some persons in hold upon suspicion, and tis hoped it may come out shortly to the glory of God, and shame and punishment of those wicked persons concerned in it.

The Corps being Imbalmed, was kept till Thursday the last day of October, and then was carried in most Noble manner; from the Great Hall of the Corporation of Old Bridewel (whereof he was one of the Governours) unto his late Parish Church being St. Martins in the Fields, never was seen a more solemn, or decent Funeral; Eight Knights, and all Justices of the Peace held up the Pall; All the Aldermen of the City attended the Corps, and above an hundred Ministers that came of their own accord without any invitation, but that of respect to his memory, and of persons of Quality and other company the croud was so great, that the Train reach'd at once from Bridewel beyond the New Exchange in the Strand, and the Church so crowded, that persons of Quality had offer'd great sums of money to get a place in any seat where they might hear.

The Reverend Dean of Bangor, in wales, Minister of that Parish, Preached a most Excellent Sermon from that suitable Text, 2 Samuel. Chap. 3.

Ver.

ver. 34. As a man falleth before wicked men, so fell he
 then, and all the people wept over him, which being
 finished, he was decently interred with great
 lamentation, especially of the Poor, whom he had
 alwayes made it his business to imploy and relieve,
 and had given and lent several hundred pounds to
 that Parish on that Account.

An Epitaph, on Sr. Edmund Bury Godfrey.

Under this weeping Marble, Reader, lyes
 The Peoples Love, the Nations Sacrifice,
 A First-rate Martyr, and to raise thy dread
 A Justice most unjustly Murdered.
 Whom Popish Blood, humane Laws, and
 They would have kill'd his Reputation too.
 But that's *Immortal*, and shall never want
 Eulogium, whilst there is *Papist* or *Protestant*.
 The one to spread his Praise in noble writ
 The other to Admire and Honour it.

